WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pilferage of mail bag at Indira Gandhi International Airport

*227. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 24th October, 1986 to the effect that mail-bag insured for $-15000 and booked by M|s. Thomas Cook for its Dubai Office, was pilfered allegdely in connivance with Air India staff at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, what are the details in regard thereto; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter and whether the responsibility in the matter has since been fixed; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A valuable mail-bag which was meant for despatch to Dubai via Bombay by an Air-India flight was found tampered with and pilfered on 18th October, 1986 at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi.

(c) Four Air-India employees who are suspected to have been involved in the pilferage were arrested by the police but later released on bail. All four employees have been placed under suspension by Air-India. Police investigations are continuing.

Kala-azar disease

*228. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of Kala-azar in Bihar, Bengal, Assam and other States during each of the last three years and how many of them proved fatal;

(b) what are the findings of the expert committee on Kala-azar headed by Dr. Harcharan Singh; and

(c) what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) According to the information received from the State Health authorities, the number of cases and deaths reported during the last three years due to Kala-azar are as under:—

Name of State	1984		1985 (Prov.)		1986 (Prov.)	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Bihar	12224	65	11017	28	8639	32
Delhi	1*	..	1*	..	3*	..
Tamil Nadu	2	..				..
Uttar Pradesh	3	..		..	..	..
West Bengal	4229	..	4247	5	1456	6

* Cases imported from Bihar.